



The Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women

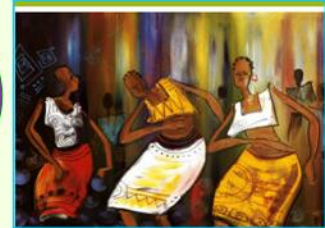
It's great to be a woman.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

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THE WOMAN'S LEXIS  
1ST BIRTHDAY  
AUGUST 2007-2008



*In August 2007, The Woman's Lexis was born. EASSI, known as a center for information on gender, realized the need to use more effective tools of communication to disseminate this information. The Woman's Lexis is an e-newsletter produced bi-monthly by EASSI. It is a source of current women's advocacy issues, a place for keeping in touch with EASSI events like campaigns, meetings, staff activities and programs at the Secretariat.*

*There have been 4000 readers in total since its inception. EASSI looks forward to an even more exciting and informative year ahead. EASSI also takes this opportunity to thank you for being part of the readership because without you, there would hardly be a reason to celebrate.*

CELEBRATING WITH THE READERS

I like the topical issues and also the fact that EASSI looks at current women's issues. The Lexis is also reader-friendly because the works are original. For the next year, I would like to see a more Ugandan focus and also a follow-up on some of the stories published.

Hilda Twongyeirwe, Coordinator, FEMRITE

The Lexis has promoted the visibility of EASSI. When I go out for events, people talk about the Lexis, and they express interest in learning how to produce the Lexis.

Josephine Watuulo, EASSI

This is great work and please keep it up. You are using the internet to the maximum. God bless you and the works of your hands.

Joseph Kaggwa ACLAIM AFRICA

## EASSI PRODUCES DOCUMENTARY, ORDINANCE AND ORDEALS.



EASSI is the only women's organization in the region working on gender mainstreaming of the work around Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). As part of the work, EASSI has produced a documentary entitled, *Ordinance and Ordeals, The effect of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Women*. The documentary aims to increase awareness of women on SALW issues and also increase dialogue and implementation of UN Resolution 1325 by civil society and EAC member states. The general content of the documentary highlights gender dimensions around SALW, comments on protocols that have supported the proliferation and control of SALW and also an advocacy message to stakeholders involved in the process to include gender dimensions. To further strengthen the work, EASSI has produced a Training of Trainers' manual which aims to increase key players on gender sensitivity and awareness on Small Arms and Light weapons in the 5 EAC countries, regionally and nationally. The training will take place between September and October 2008.

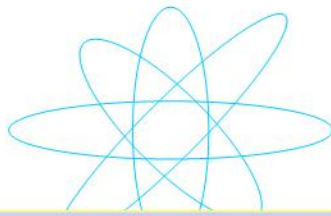
May the Lexis continue to serve the community.  
Happy 1st Birthday!

### Participants at the strategic plan setting the new direction for EASSI for 2009-2013



EASSI concluded the end term evaluation process with a strategic plan held in Entebbe Uganda in July 2008. Over 35 people attended including board members, staff, focal points, partners and individual members. The meeting set a new direction for 2009--2013. The activities will create a transformation and positive shift and enhance women's movement building.

EASSI will also optimize the power of numbers as a regional organization and work closely with the East African Community.



**LEXIS INSPIRATION DEDICATED TO ALL READERS**

One fine day I shall walk with my head held high  
My back ever so straight  
My strides long and purposeful  
As I take my walk...

For on this day I will not walk alone  
I will be walking with those who do not care  
About being size four, fourteen or forty...

Oh, how I will enjoy my walk  
On this fine day  
With all my sisters  
And the brothers who would like to join us

By Dame Nita Barrow

**VOLUME  
2 ISSUE 8**

**HAPPY 1ST  
BIRTHDAY.  
MAY U  
GROW  
WITH THE  
STRENGTH  
OF A  
WOMAN.**



**Board members and staff at Strategic Plan July 2008**



**The EASSI birthday girls, Nambozo, Emunah and Redemptor**



**EASSI members from Eritrea and Ethiopia take time off to relax after the Strategic plan**

**“...And, as we let our own light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same. ...”  
Nelson Mandela**



## EASSI holds FGM advocacy workshop in Kisumu

EASSI held a successful advocacy meeting on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kisumu, Kenya from 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008. The meeting was held to assess the progress made in EASSI's and its partner's anti-FGM campaign in the region and share knowledge on effective advocacy strategies against FGM which can be upscaled or replicated. The meeting was also to develop a plan of action for continued regional advocacy on FGM and discuss funding issues in relation to FGM work and develop stronger

Partnerships with funding agencies. The meeting drew participants from the six countries in the EASSI sub-region in which FGM is practised namely Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. The meeting discussed progress made and challenges faced in carrying out anti-FGM work and strategies to mitigate the challenges. The participants shared knowledge on good practices and generated information for regional campaign strategy for the elimination of FGM and identified funding opportunities for anti-FGM.



Participants in a group photo during the workshop



Natabona Okwenje of EASSI left prepares group presentation at the workshop



A participant from Tanzania Coalition for FGM stresses a point at the workshop



Marren Akatsa-Bukachi, EASSI ED left making a presentation at the workshop



EASSI intern from Eritrea Emuna Saleh registering participants at the workshop

# EASSI's upcoming events

## September 2008

- **Participation in High Level Forum event around New Aid Modalities in Accra, Ghana**
- **Training of Trainers focusing on gender and SALW in Burundi**
- **Workshop for regional organizations promoting gender equality taking place in Denmark**
- **Participation in Africa Feminist Forum, Kampala Uganda**

## October 2008

- **Validation/advocacy workshop of Country Status Reports , Kigali Rwanda**
- **Advocating for a gender center in the EAC, October to December 2008**
- **Participation in communication workshop in Cape Town**
- **National/Regional Campaign for an East African Declaration on Gender Equality (EADGE)**

## November

- **Interns' research dissemination workshop in Kampala, Uganda**
- **Participation in African Women's Leadership Institute training-in Addis Ababa**
- **Participation in AWID forum , Cape Town**

## December

- **Advertisement for new internship programme for 2009**
- **Advertisement for new project officer for EADGE**



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